



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

100
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/943,124 | 08/30/2001 | William J. Purpura | 7784-00340 | 9306 |

7590 07/28/2003

Mark D. Elchuk, Esq.
Harness Dickey & Peirce P.L.C.
5445 Corporate Drive #400
Troy, MI 48098

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DANNY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| 09/943,124 | PURPURA, WILLIAM J. |
| Examiner | Art Unit |
| Danny Nguyen | 2836 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9 and 11-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4,10 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

1. Claims 1-3, 7-914-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Small (USPN 6,459,175).

Regarding to claims 1, 14, Small discloses a power distribution system (see fig. 2B) comprises a power input port (65); at least three power output ports (51A, 51B, 53A, 53B), each having a separate, re-settable over-current protection circuit (47A, 47B, see col. 5, lines 57-64), each of the over-current protection circuits having its own maximum current rating (20 amp); and a port switch (67) configured to provide power from the input port to selectable combination of one or more the output ports (51A ,53A, and 51B and 53B respectively), including at least one combination of two or more the output ports, and further configured to prevent power from being applied to all the output ports simultaneously (see col. 5, lines 60-65).

Regarding to claims 2, 3, Small discloses the port switch is further configured to restrict selection of any combination of the output ports having over-current protection circuits with maximum current ratings totaling more than a pre-selected maximum current (see col. 4, lines 47-55).

Regarding to claim 7, Small discloses a power distribution system and a method (see fig1. 1 and 2B) comprises a power source (see col. 3, lines 42-45) to provide power to a plurality of seat connectors (connector 20); a branch level over-protection circuits having a maximum current rating (circuit breaker 23 with maximum current rating 2.5 amp, fig. 1) and providing current protection for current drawn in a branch of the system comprising a plurality of seat connectors; and a power splitter having a power input port (78) configured to receive power one of the seat connectors; at least three power output ports(51A, 51B, 53A, 53B), each having a separate, re-settable over-current protection circuit (47A, 47B, see col. 5, lines 57-64), each of the over-current protection circuits having its own maximum current rating (20 amp); and a port switch (67) configured to provide power from the input port to selectable combination of one or more the output ports (51A and 53A and 51B and 53B respectively, see abstract), including at least one combination of two or more the output ports, and further configured to prevent power from being applied to all the output ports simultaneously (see col. 5, lines 60-65).

Claims 8, 9, and 15 repeat the limitations of claims 2 and 3; therefore they are rejected accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5,11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Small in view of Potega (USPN 6,459,175). Small discloses all limitations of claim 1 except for having the input ports and the output ports which are selected from the group of 12 VDC power connectors and ARINC 628 connection points. Potega discloses the input ports and the output ports are selected from the group of 12 VDC power connectors and ARINC 628 connection points (see col. 48, lines 11-18 and 53-56). It would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the input and output ports of Small with the input ports and the output ports which are selected from the group of 12 VDC power connectors and ARINC 628 connection points in order to provide a better connection.

5. Claims 6, 12, 13, 16, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Small.

Regarding to claims 12, 13 and 16, Small does not teach the power distribution system installed on the airplane. However, It would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the power system of Small to install on the airplane in order to provide more conveniences for passengers who want to use more than one devices at each time.

Regarding to claims 6 and 17, Small does not disclose that the resettable circuit breaker can be replaced with different current rating. However, Small discloses the resettable circuit breakers are separate and independent circuit breaker (see col. 5, lines 57-58, see col. 1, lines 17-30). Therefore, It would have been obvious to ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow different electrical devices with different power requirements could be used.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 18 and 19 are allowed
4. Claims 4 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/13/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding to claims 1, 7, and 14, applicant argued that the Small reference fails to teach to restrict the switch from selecting the combination of all output ports. However, Small discloses that the controller (60) controls the switch circuit (67) to prevent all the output terminals (51A, 53A and 51B and 53B) operating at the same time (see col. 5, lines 20-64). Therefore, the applicant's arguments of claims 1, 7, and 14 do not overcome the Small reference.

Regarding to claim 5 and 11, applicant claims that the ports (including the input port and the output port) selected from the group consisting of 12 VDC power connectors and ARINC 628 connection pins, these connectors do not do function of selection and restrict of selection of all of output ports as applicant argued. Therefore,

the applicant's arguments of claims 5 and 11 do not overcome the combination Small and Potega references.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)-305-5988. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703)-308-3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9318 for regular communications and (703)-872-9319 for After Final communications.

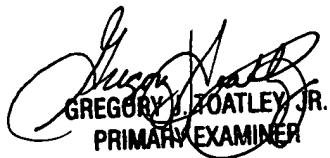
Art Unit: 2836

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

DN

DN

July 22, 2003



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Boatley, Jr." Below the signature, the text "GREGORY J. BOATLEY, JR." is printed in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "PRIMARY EXAMINER" in a smaller, all-caps font.